



ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Nicola, formerly homeless Veteran
Served 1980-1987

Jim, formerly homeless Veteran
Served 2004-2011

Bobby, formerly homeless Veteran
Served 1979-1984

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program Frequently Asked Questions

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program, which has provided homeless Veterans with community-based transitional housing and supportive services since 1994, underwent a transformation starting in December 2016. The objective was to more closely align the delivery of services with [Housing First](#) goals and eliminate overlaps in services to best serve our nation's Veterans. This involved implementing a competitive, time-limited grant application process that required currently funded community providers to reapply for funding and meet more specific criteria to be awarded a grant. The competitive process will give VA greater flexibility to allocate resources and the agility to respond to evolving best practices for homeless services and programs. GPD, however, is and will remain a vital part of VA's continuum of services to prevent and end homelessness.

The following answers to frequently asked questions provide more information about the different elements of this transformation.

Q: What is Housing First?

Housing First is an evidence-based, cost-effective approach to ending homelessness for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals. The Housing First model prioritizes housing and then assists the Veteran with access to healthcare and other supports that promote stable housing and improved quality of life.

The model does not try to determine who is "housing ready" or demand treatment prior to housing. Instead, treatment and other support services are wrapped around Veterans as they obtain and maintain permanent housing.



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Q: Why were Grant and Per Diem (GPD) providers required to apply for grants under the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in the Federal Register on Dec. 23, 2016?

Many communities have greatly expanded their ability to house and otherwise assist homeless Veterans since the GPD Program began in 1994. In addition, some organizations that have been receiving GPD grant funding from the start may be providing services that are out-of-date or duplicative. The new application process provided an opportunity for GPD providers to update or re-envision their programs and to work alongside other VA and community resources in a way that aligns with community needs and resources.

Q: Who was eligible to apply for grants under this NOFA?

Only currently operational GPD grantees were eligible to apply.

Q: What is the funding period for this award?

Funding awarded under this [NOFA](#) begins on Oct. 1, 2017, and ends on Sept. 30, 2018.

VA may offer two additional renewal periods depending on the availability of funds, statutory and regulatory requirements, the results of a VA inspection, and whether the grant recipient meets performance goals established in the grant agreement.

Q: When will the awards be announced?

It is anticipated that the awards will be announced in early September, 2017.

Q: If an organization's application was not selected as part of this NOFA, what will happen to the Veterans they serve?

VA will offer all non-selected applicants a one-time extension through September 30, 2018 to provide them an opportunity to continue to serve our Veterans while applying for funding through a new NOFA. VA anticipates announcing a new NOFA in October 2017.

Q: How will an applicant be informed that their application was not selected?

The applicant will receive official notification in writing from the Grant and Per Diem National Program Office in August, 2017.

Q: How does a non-selected applicant learn about the one-time extension period?

The official written notification of non-selection will contain information on the one-time extension period. Additional instructions on the implementation of the extension will come from the Grant and Per Diem National Program Office.

Q: How will VA fill gaps that have been left in communities that have fewer GPD grantees as a result of the new requirements for funding consideration?

In addition to the previously mentioned extension for non-selected applicants, VA plans to offer a new Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in early Fiscal Year 2018. Finally, VA will use its homeless program resources and collaborate with community partners to ensure homeless Veterans have access to permanent housing and/or homeless services.



Q: Could applicants apply for funding for more than one of the following housing models — Bridge Housing, Low Demand, Hospital to Housing, Clinical Treatment, or Service-Intensive Transitional Housing?

Yes; however, applicants were required to complete a separate application for each model.

Q: How will VA monitor the success of these grants?

VA places great emphasis on responsibility and accountability. The following procedures are being implemented to monitor the services that are provided to homeless Veterans through GPD-funded programs:

- Awardees will be required to support their requests for payment with adequate fiscal documentation.
- GPD-funded programs will be inspected at least annually by the local VA medical center to ensure grant compliance.
- Each grantee will have a liaison appointed from a nearby VA medical facility to provide oversight and monitor services delivered to homeless Veterans in the program. Monitoring will include, at a minimum, a quarterly review of each GPD-funded program's progress toward meeting VA performance metrics and targets, as described in the [NOFA](#).
- Monitoring could also include a review of the organization's income and expenses as they relate to the GPD Program to ensure accurate payment.
- Each grantee will participate in VA's national program monitoring and evaluation, as these monitoring procedures will be used to determine successful accomplishment of housing outcomes for each GPD-funded program.

Q: Where can applicants direct additional questions related to the award?

For more information on the status of your GPD application, contact the GPD National Program Office at GPDgrants@va.gov or 877-332-0334.

Q: How do Veterans access services from GPD grantees?

Veterans may contact their local VA medical center (VAMC) homeless program staff directly to inquire about program availability and referrals. If Veterans need assistance locating their nearest VAMC or want more information about the full range of VA resources available in their area, they can contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 424-3838.



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